

REMARKS

Claims 1-34, 37-50, 54, 56-61, 68, and 69 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 68 have been amended. Claims 37-50, 54, 56-61, and 69 have been cancelled, and Claims 70-95 are new. Claims 1-34, 68, and 70-95 remain.

5 **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 8-10, 16, 18-19, and 32-33 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim. Allowable dependent Claims 18 and 19 have been incorporated into independent Claim 1. Additionally, allowable dependent Claims 8-10 have been incorporated into new independent Claim 77, which includes all the limitations of independent Claim 1. Allowable dependent Claim 16 has been incorporated into new independent Claim 70, which includes all the limitations of independent Claim 1. Allowable Claims 32 and 33 have been incorporated into new independent Claim 84, which includes all the limitations of independent Claim 1.

15 **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Marouf et al. in view of Hart et al.**

Claims 1-7, 11-15, 17, 20-24, 34, 37-45, 48-49, 54, 57-61, and 68-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,475,190, issued to Marouf et al. (“Marouf”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,410,739, issued to Hart et al. (“Hart”). Applicant traverses.

20 The examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness, which includes a clear articulation of the reasons or rationale why the claimed invention would have been obvious. MPEP 2142. Exemplary rationales to support a conclusion of obviousness are listed in MPEP 2143, although the list is not all-inclusive.

25 Claims 8-10, 16, 18-19, and 32-33 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable dependent Claims 18 and 19. Claim 68, which is a corresponding system claim of method Claim 1, has also been amended to incorporate allowable dependent Claims 18 and 19. New independent Claim 70, which includes the limitations of Claim 1, also incorporates the limitations of allowable Claim 16. New independent Claim 77,

which includes the limitations of Claim 1, also incorporates the limitations of allowable Claims 8-10. New independent Claim 84, which includes the limitations of Claim 1, also incorporates the limitations of allowable Claims 32 and 33. Therefore, independent Claims 1, 68, 70, 77, and 84 are allowable.

- 5 Additionally, Claims 37-45, 48-49, 54, 57-61, and 68-69 have been cancelled.
 Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown.
Claims 2-7, 11-15, 17, 20-24, and 34 are dependent on Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 71-76 are dependent on Claim 70 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein.
10 Claims 78-83 are dependent on Claim 77 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 85-95 are dependent on Claim 84 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is
15 requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Marouf et al. in view of Hart et al. and in view of Skeen et al.

- Claims 25-31, 46-47, 50, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Marouf in view of Hart and further in view of U.S. Patent No.
20 5,966,531, issued to Skeen et al. (“Skeen”). Applicant traverses.
 Adding the teachings of Skeen to the teachings of the Marouf and Hart combination introduces further functionality. However, as discussed above, the Marouf-Hart combination fails to render Claim 1 obvious, and the addition of Skeen does no more to support an obviousness rejection of Claims 25-31. Claims
25 25-31 are dependent upon Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Additionally, Claims 46, 47, 50, and 56 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection is
 requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Horn et al. in view of Hart et al.

- 30 Claims 1-5, 11, 21, 24, 34, 37, 40-41, 45, 48-49, 54, 57, 60-61, and 68-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No.

6,556,670, issued to Horn et al. (“Horn”), in view of Hart. Applicant traverses.

The examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness, which includes a clear articulation of the reasons or rationale why the claimed invention would have been obvious. MPEP 2142.

- 5 Exemplary rationales to support a conclusion of obviousness are listed in MPEP 2143, although the list is not all-inclusive.

Claims 8-10, 16, 18-19, and 32-33 have been indicated as allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable dependent Claims 18 and 19.

- 10 Claim 68, which is a corresponding system claim of method Claim 1, has also been amended to incorporate allowable dependent Claims 18 and 19. New independent Claim 70, which includes the limitations of Claim 1, also incorporates the limitations of allowable Claim 16. New independent Claim 77, which includes the limitations of Claim 1, also incorporates the limitations of allowable Claims 8-10. New independent Claim 84, which includes the limitations of Claim 1, also incorporates the limitations of allowable Claims 32 and 33. Therefore, independent Claims 1, 68, 70, 77, and 84 are allowable. Additionally, Claims 37, 40-41, 45, 48-49, 54, 57, 60-61, and 68-69 have been cancelled.

- 20 Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown with respect to independent Claims 1, 68, 70, 77 and 84. Claims 2-5, 11, 21, 24, and 34 are dependent on Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 71-76 are dependent on Claim 70 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 78-83 are dependent on Claim 77 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 84-95 are dependent on Claim 84 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

- 25 **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Horn et al. in view of Hart et al. and in view of Marouf et al.**

30 Claims 2-4, 6-7, 12-15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 38-39, 42-44, and 58-59 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Horn in view of Hart and further in view of Marouf. Applicant traverses.

Adding the teachings of Marouf to the teachings of the Horn and Hart combination introduces further functionality. However, as discussed above, the 5 Horn-Hart combination fails to render Claim 1 obvious, and the addition of Marouf does no more to support an obviousness rejection of Claims 2-4, 6-7, 12-15, 17, 20, 22, and 23. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 12-15, 17, 20, 22, and 23 are dependent upon Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Additionally, Claims 38-39, 42-44, and 10 58-59 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Horn et al. in view of Hart et al. and in view of Skeen et al.

Claims 25-31, 46-47, 50, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Horn in view of Hart and further in view of Skeen. Applicant 15 traverses.

Adding the teachings of Skeen to the teachings of the Horn and Hart combination introduces further functionality. However, as discussed above, the Horn-Hart combination fails to render Claim 1 obvious, and the addition of Skeen does no more to support an obviousness rejection of Claims 25-31. Claims 25-31 20 are dependent upon Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 46-47, 50, and 56 have been cancelled. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed by the applicant and is considered to be no more pertinent than the prior art references 25 already applied.

Claims 70-95 are new; however, no excess claim fees are required.

Claims 1-34, 68, and 70-95 are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Entry of the foregoing amendments is requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please contact the undersigned at (206) 381-3900 regarding 30 any questions or concerns associated with the present matter.

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Docket No. A3161-US-NP

Respectfully submitted,

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